

## FACT SHEET

## SPECIALTY CROP RESEARCH INITIATIVE

## OVERVIEW

**O** N OCT. 2, 2014, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced more than \$51 million in grants to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry through research and extension. The grants were funded through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI), which was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

## GRANTS

NIFA awarded 23 grants in 14 states through SCRI in fiscal year 2014. These grants fund research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems.

"The specialty crop industry has seen a surge both domestically and internationally. In order to provide the highest quality horticultural products, growers need sound science and technology to make informed decisions and stay profitable. These grants help address these needs by providing specialty crop producers with the information and tools they need successfully grow, process, and market safe and high quality products."

-Sonny Ramaswamy, Director  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

## IMPACT

SCRI supports the specialty crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address the needs of specific crops. Specialty crops are defined in law as “fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture.”

Funded projects address five focus areas:

1. Improve crop characteristics through plant breeding, genetics, and genomics,
2. Address threats from pests and diseases,
3. Improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability,
4. Develop new innovations and technologies, and
5. Develop methods to improve food safety.

## FISCAL YEAR 2014 SCRI AWARDS

**Clemson University**  
Clemson, SC  
\$1,783,670

**Cornell University**  
Ithaca, NY  
1) \$2,627,860  
2) \$1,602,307

Michigan State University  
Lansing, MI

- 1) \$3,477,705
- 2) \$2,450,060
- 3) \$1,802,113

North Carolina  
State University  
Raleigh, NC  
\$2,957,918

Oregon State  
University  
Corvallis, OR  
1) \$2,977,880  
2) \$50,000

Texas A&M  
University  
College Station, TX  
\$3,315,464

University  
of California  
Davis, CA  
\$2,715,901

University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL  
\$1,363,057

University  
of Georgia  
Athens, GA  
1) \$2,375,545  
2) \$1,741,071  
3) \$32,212

University  
of Maryland  
College Park, MD  
\$4,599,601

University  
of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN  
\$1,912,178

USDA Agricultural  
Research Service  
Davis, CA  
1) \$2,869,907  
2) \$2,534,803

USDA Agricultural  
Research Service  
Kearneysville, WV  
\$2,705,308

**Virginia Polytechnic  
Institute**  
*Blacksburg, VA*  
\$49,498

Washington  
State University  
Pullman, WA  
1) \$3,169,180  
2) \$2,741,575

